

## **CONTACT**

By: Bill Mintz

**JANUARY 2001**

Well we're at the countdown for the final days of this year. Some interesting things have happened this past year. Hopefully, as a club, we have been able to learn from the positive and negative things as we move forward into next year. It is my hope that these things have made us a stronger and more durable club.

I would like to thank Steve Jaworski and John Burdin for the donation of the six channel radio that we can use for our raffle for the upcoming spring AirShow.

For those who were not able to come to the last meeting, your new safety director is Mark Martin. If anyone is interested in being the field maintenance director, please get in touch with me. Hopefully by the time you read this, there will be a new rope dividing the observation area and the flight line (????).

I would like to set a goal for the year 2001 that we would have no personal injuries at our field. This is a VERY attainable goal if we keep safety as the number 1 priority. This is the reason why my cliché is "Safety is everyone's responsibility." This means that if you see someone doing something that may cause injury to themselves or others, do not hesitate to make mention of it to him, for he may not be aware that he is doing something wrong.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy

Holidays, and please do not drink while driving or flying.....they both result in a crash.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Special Notice**

*It's time to renew memberships. Bring your renewal form to the meeting, mail it in or bring it to Jim's Hobbies. Be sure to include a copy of your new (2001) AMA card. Remember, you may not fly after December 31, 2000 without both, your new AMA and IRCC membership cards.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **TAILSLIDE**

By: Keith Hunt

The 2000 Jim Smith Memorial (IMAA) Fly-In is now in the record book. It was good to see the return of some old friends and the arrival of some new ones. We were privileged to have the "Lucky Bastards" Scale Military group attend. These guys brought some

super nice WWII aircraft and flew them all day long. (I know, I fly aerobatics, but as many of you know, I'm very partial to warbirds!)

Although he didn't fly, it was good to see **Bob Godfrey** of **Bob Godfrey Designs** make an appearance.

A total of 41 pilots were registered for the weekend, some traveling as far away as Michigan. (They really wanted to get out of the snow!!). Our weather was just about as perfect as one could ask. The only incident causing damage to an aircraft was a take off mishap with a P-40 Warhawk that ran off the runway slightly.

The most important thing that happened is that everyone had a good time!

Noticeably absent at this event were our club officers, however, several club members did make themselves available and worked hard to help the club! Assisted by **Gene and Patrick McDermott** and **Frank Ciccarello**, **Jim Nunnallee** provided concessions. **Arnold Schmidt**, **Doug Burrell** and **Kurt Kauth** managed the impound and registration, while **Scott Smith** and **Lee Jarvis** handled flight line safety, inspections, and also greatly assisted in other areas. These members are truly our team players!

Until next time.....  
Don't forget to have fun!!!

The IRCC monthly club meeting is held at the Mulberry City Hall at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of each

OUR NEXT MEETING IS:  
**January 4th**

The deadline for contributions to the next newsletter is:  
**January 15th.**

(Continued from page 1)

**Well Done Keith!!!!**

A big congratulations to Keith Hunt for a great year of IMAC competition. Keith finished first in class throughout the state of Florida, and made his first ever trip to the AMA Nationals. Keith has now moved up to the Advanced category for 2001. Tougher maneuvers and more practice will certainly yield good results in the new year.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MEETING MINUTES**

Jim Nunnallee, Acting Secretary  
 December 7, 2000

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

The minutes from the last meeting and the treasurer's report were accepted as written.

**Guests and New Members:** New members present included Ryan

Hamilton from Bartow and Lynn Collins from Lakeland.

**Field Maintenance:** It was noted that the ropes on the parking line are in disrepair. Bill Mintz said he would take a look.

**Safety:** Mark Martin has been appointed as the new club Safety Officer. There was a discussion about the use of the short northeast/southwest runway on the east end of the field. Members were reminded that **THIS RUNWAY IS PERMANENTLY CLOSED** and not available for either landings or takeoffs. Use of this runway was prohibited several years ago due to conflicts with Bulger's helicopter hangar.

**Membership:** Don Wasilewski reported that we are up to 104 members.

**Old Business:** John Burdin reported that he is still researching new lettering for the big sign.

**New Business:** Bill Mintz reported that there will be an executive committee meeting soon to include our CD's to discuss next year's event schedule. Jim Urick mentioned that we need to check to confirm that we have an Airtronics buddy box and cord at the

field.

**Plane of the Month:** Mike Zellars won with a nice Top Flite 1/5 scale P-51.

**50/50:** Mark Martin was the winner.

**Raffle:** Mike Zellars won a Hangar 9 Volt Watch onboard battery checker. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

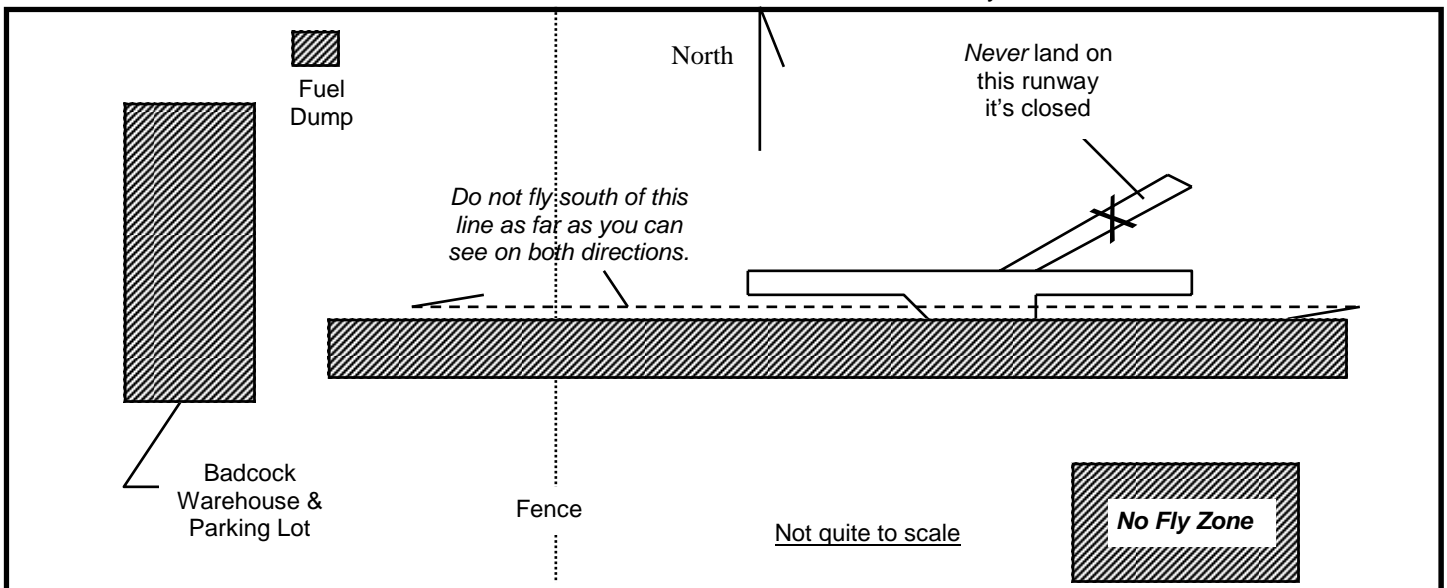
**Required Reading for all 2001 members**

**Is your club "friendly?"**

"Hi Jay,

I recently decided to get back into R/C flying, after an absence of about 23 years, and I visited three fairly nearby flying fields. Times certainly have changed!

Twice, I was the only spectator, and I was obviously interested, since I moved up and down the fence looking at the models and watching as they were either prepared for flight, or serviced after a flight. Although I made eye contact with a smile whenever I



Please pay attention to this diagram and what's printed below.

**Courtesy and common sense makes R/C modeling fun for everyone.**

(Continued from page 2)

could, not one person came over to say Hi and ask if I was interested in R/C flying! The "came over" part involved a distance of 12'-17' max.

At the third field, there were two couples in their mid-twenties, my friend and myself, in the spectator area. It was an exact repetition of the above. In all three instances, I had to raise my voice to attract someone's attention, always picking someone who wasn't busy with a model, so that I could ask a few basic questions about joining a club and starting to fly again.

Had I not already made 99% of the decision to return to the hobby, I probably would have said, "Screw You!", and gone off and done something else to occupy my recreation time!

At none of the fields was I offered the opportunity for a close-up look at the models. The overriding impression that I got from the people I talked to was that my accosting them was viewed as an intrusion. One of the couples walked over to ask some questions, and they were treated the same, so it isn't that I've got such a rotten personality that no one would willingly talk to me!

Nobody I talked with volunteered anything. I had to ask a specific question for every bit of information that I got. Nobody introduced themselves, or asked my name. Nobody said something like, "If you're really interested, give me your name and phone number, and I'll have 'Charlie' call you. He's our resident "talker", and he can explain everything to you, maybe set you up for a trial flight on a trainer and introduce you to some of the guys and gals at our next club meeting." In fact, I got the name of one of the club "talkers" from a hobby shop, called and left a message, explaining who I was and why I had called.

A week later I called and left another message. Four days later, I obtained a different name and phone number and got the information I wanted. And, No, the "talker" wasn't out of town!

I treat people that I don't like, who

## December BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!!

Chris Rogers	4th
Frank Ciccarello	10th
Kurt Kauth	10th
Mark Martin	3rd

are Guests for whatever reason in my home, my place of business, or I just happen to run into on the street, with more warmth, interest and courtesy than I was shown at any of these fields! Not only was I not impressed, I was actively disappointed.

I just joined a club, but the choice was based solely on travel distance and the fact that I need a place to fly and the services of an instructor to get my hand back in. If I owned a farm, or lived in the boonies, I'd have said the hell with it and accepted the risks and probable extra expense of re-learning on my own!

Your idea of a club having one or more trainers available for a trial flight by visitors is excellent! With the advent of the buddy box - I can't remember ever seeing one, when I flew before. - I don't understand why clubs don't jump on this idea, as a means of getting people interested in the hobby. If this is against AMA rules for some reason, then I disagree with the rule, and it should be either changed, or ignored! Needless to say, the club I joined doesn't have any trainers so designated, and if the other two clubs do, they kept it a closely guarded secret!

The definition of PR at the three fields I visited, as it came across to this visitor, is Private & Restricted! Judging by some of the Internet posts I've read, often authored by people in their teens and twenties, I'm not the only visitor who has come away from a flying field with this feeling!

Only once, at any of these fields, did I see a young person flying. A boy of 14, or so, was learning to fly a helicopter. The next youngest person I saw was in his mid to late 30's. Yes, I realize that a few visits to only three fields in a tiny geographic area doesn't constitute a reliable sampling of R/C flying in the United States. But, since most of my visits were in the early evening and on the weekend, it does say something with a fair degree of reliability! The first club meeting that I attended a week ago was an exact duplicate. Ironically, it was held in a school!

Maybe the older folk, predominant in my small sample, have lived through the hassles of raising children, and they just don't want the Peace and Quiet, figuratively speaking, of their hobby disrupted by beginners and the care and attention they require. Maybe. Or, maybe it's something else that I've been out of the hobby too long to pick up on such short re-acquaintance. But whatever it is, in my opinion, it's shortsighted!

As everyone knows, long term planning in the United States, by Government, business and maybe R/C clubs (?), can be defined accurately as, "the time encompassed by the consecutive life spans of two drosophila flies!" Could this be one of the reasons why I've read several posts in the R/C newsgroups about the decline in interest and/or the number of participants in the hobby? Are they true? I don't know.

Even if they aren't, expecting very many people to grin and bear it through the inattention, reluctance and what some will view as the outright rudeness that I experienced to enter the hobby anyway, is unrealistic. This is an expensive hobby even at the 40 size trainer level, and there are a lot of fun things to do competing for those dollars. Fun things done by fun people with fun personalities who are obviously "happy" to have someone express an interest in doing what they enjoy doing so much themselves! They'll be only too glad to take the R/C flying field visitors on the rebound!

In my opinion, unless a majority of



(863) 293-0688

AIRPLANES , RADIOS, FUEL, COVERING, ADHESIVES,  
ENGINES AND MORE

*133 1st Street South - Winter Haven, FL 33880*

## ***JIM'S HOBBIES***

**R/C HEADQUARTERS**

**M-F 9 - 6 863-425-1391 Saturdays 10 - 5**

Engines, Kits, Radios, Fuel, Glow Plugs, Building  
Material, Misc. Parts and just about anything else you  
may need. *We will special order!!*

IRCC Club Membership Information Available.

Located only three minutes from the IRCC flying  
field.

*Across from McDonalds in Mulberry*

## **CHARLIE'S DISCOUNT HOBBIES**

Airplanes, Cars, Boats, Rockets,, Plastics, Tools and Parts

Specializing in Airplanes BUY-SELL-TRADE

7530 W. Waters Avenue (813) 882-4007

Shop Hours: M-F 11:00-6:30, Sat 10:00-5:00, Sun 1:00-5:00

## 2001 Coming Area Events

IRCC Mall Show

Sun N'Fun

IRCC AirShow

Mac Dill AirFest

Top Gun

Summer Swap Meet

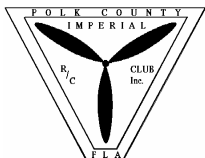
WarBirds Unlimited

Florida Aerobatics / IMAC

Florida International Jet Rally

IRCC / IMAA Winter Rally

Dates and times will be listed soon!!



Imperial R/C Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 6662  
Lakeland, FL 33807

Don't  
forget the  
stamp